



***Division of Public Defender Services
State of Connecticut***

ATTORNEY CHRISTINE PERRA RAPILLO
DIRECTOR OF DELINQUENCY DEFENSE & CHILD PROTECTION

**TESTIMONY OF CHRISTINE RAPILLO
DIRECTOR OF DELINQUENCY DEFENSE AND CHILD PROTECTION
DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES**

**COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN
FEBRUARY 14, 2013**

**RAISED BILL 650, AN ACT CREATING A PARENTS' SUPPORT HOT LINE FOR
PARENTS OF CHILDREN EXHIBITING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
ISSUES**

The Office of Chief Public Defender supports passage of Raised Bill 650, An Act Creating a Parent's Support Hot Line for Parents of Children Exhibiting Behavioral Health Issues. This proposal would create an easily accessible way for parents to seek help dealing with a child's behavioral issues. Our lawyers handling delinquency and child welfare cases in juvenile matters courts interact every day with families who ended up in the court system because they were unable to find services for a child. When the child's behavior becomes unsafe or unmanageable, they end up arrested or in the care of the Department of Children and Families. An accessible, easy to use hot line would help families find the treatment and services they need to keep their children safe, happy and productive. The Office of the Chief Public Defender is happy to support this proposal.